

Marie Mills Center, Inc.



1800 Front Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Fall 2011

Dancing In The Spotlight



Above:
"The Lion Sleeps
Tonight"
Right:
"North To Alaska"



Above:
Ballroom
Dancing
Left:
"Celebration"



For the past 6 years, many individuals at Marie Mills Center have been receiving dance instruction from the **Oregon Coast Dance Center**. What started out with one individual wanting to learn to dance, quickly evolved into a larger group that captivated the hearts of everyone. **Rachel Coon-Martin**, owner of the Dance Center and primary dance instructor says that *"this is one of my favorite classes to teach, because they come in excited and ready to learn"*. The music that is chosen for participant's recital routine is always upbeat and fun to dance to. For the past several years participants have been working on tap dancing. *"Repetition is the key to their success"* says Rachel. Over the years, there have been many student instructors requesting to be involved with this group because of its excitement and eagerness to learn. Through this opportunity, participants have danced in front of hundreds of individuals at annual recitals, as well as at the Tillamook County Fair. Not only has this been a

great opportunity for individuals at Marie Mills Center, it has been a great opportunity for others involved with the Dance Center.

May We Help You?

Marie Mills Center has a willing and able work force ready to help you out! We provide janitorial services, subcontract labor, confidential record destruction, individual job placements; the list goes on and on.

If you have a job that needs done or need good help, give us a call and we can discuss how Marie Mills Center can help you meet that need. **For further information contact Cindy Green at 503-842-2539 x 14 or for Janitorial Services, Jodi Bradley at 503-842-2539 x 15.**

Annual Picnic

Again, this year's **annual picnic** was a well attended smashing success. We gathered at the Kilchis Park on Aug. 7th where barbequing was provided by **Ron Rush, Randy Remington, Tony Nord, Bob Ouzounian, George Widmer and Gene Widmer**. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, potato and macaroni salads as well as fun and games afterwards. This year's event featured many door prize drawings.



A Special Thank You

Marie Mills Center sends a special thank you to the **“Catholic Daughters”** who donated \$300 to the Marie Mills Center Christmas fund. Also, to **Joel Baker, President** and the **Tillamook Eagles**. They held a President's Choice charity event and with the help of their members

raised approximately \$800 for our Christmas fund. The Eagles are looking forward to making this event bigger and better for next summer! The thoughtfulness of both of these groups is absolutely amazing and heart warming! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

Marie Mills Foundation Update

The Foundation wishes to thank the following individuals who have contributed recently: **Robert Mann, Carolyn Keen, Harry and Linda Backeburg, Claire and Roy Peterson, Sally Wallace, Kerma and John Lamkin, Robert and Jane Dunn, TLC Credit Union, Nancy and Richard Jones, Brent and Laurie Jacobsen, Charles Benschmidt, Rudy and Ruth Fenk, Jack and Sheila Weichal, Mario and Alma Pastega Family Foundation, Bud and Helen Gienger, Helen Benschmidt, Linda Kay Marshall, Steven and Linda Darling, Capt. David and Mary De Cook, Reinhold Heckel, Bob and Elva Weeks**
Thank You!

The Foundation has been active in **promoting the financial wellbeing of Marie Mills Center**. In times like these the importance of the Foundation cannot be under stated. **If you would like to find out more about the Marie Mills Foundation please contact Ron Rush at 503-842-2539 x 12, visit us at www.mariemillscenter.com or email ron@mariemillscenter.com**. Also, your remembrance of the Foundation in your **Estate Planning** can help to ensure the future of Marie Mills Center and its services for the developmentally disabled in Tillamook County.

2010/2011 Year In Review

Our most recent year was challenging and uncertain, and was not a surprise given our state's severe recession, and the impact upon its budget. In January, 2010, we saw our State Funds Budget reduced by \$25,000 annually. In October of 2010, we saw yet another State Funding reduction – that time it was \$56,000 annually. These two **reductions forced us to be even more conservative in our operations** in order to be prepared for continued funding reductions and uncertainties. Future uncertainties included the likelihood of **further State Funding reductions for the 2011/ 2012 fiscal year**. Marie Mills Center faced the strong possibility that our State Funding would be reduced by an additional \$150,000 annually.

While the Oregon Legislature was in session, those in the field of developmental disabilities lobbied the legislature to reconsider these cuts. By the conclusion of the legislative session, efforts were successful. In the end, we considered it a victory that our State Funding for 2011/2012 would **"only"** be reduced by \$75,000. **When looking at prior reductions, and those for 2011/2012, we will have seen our State Funding reduced a total of \$156,000 annually.**

In the past year, we did have some **positive outcomes** in spite of these uncertain times. We showed a small increase in the number of persons with disabilities served by Marie Mills Center. **Our client base grew by 3 from 81 to 84 individuals served.** In the past year, we showed an increase in provision of respite/crisis services at our Madrona House Group Home with **112 respite/crisis days of service being provided** for developmentally disabled individuals in need.

We also **enhanced Marie Mills Center transportation capabilities** through the purchase of a brand new modified handicapped accessible van acquired through grant funding from the **Public Transit Division** and the **Meyer Memorial Trust Grass Roots Program**. A major project during the last year was the **upgrading of our computer system to a centralized server system** which was accomplished through grants and donations.

In reviewing our 41st year, while it will not be considered a "glamorous year", it certainly was not boring. In spite of its many uncertainties, we continued with our levels of service to those in our programs, and **we had a number of accomplishments that we are proud of.**

Transportation Enhancements

Marie Mills Center received grant support from the **Public Transit Division** to help its transportation program. Marie Mills Center received \$6,000 to help assist in meeting **vehicle preventative maintenance** expenses. Another grant will help meet transportation

needs of Tillamook County's disabled citizens by providing tokens for the **purchase of services from the Tillamook County Transportation District**. This \$11,272 grant will provide 11,272 trips on local public transit for developmentally disabled and other disabled individuals in the coming two years. It also provides an opportunity for Marie Mills Center to **partner with CARE, Inc. (Community Action Resources Enterprises)** to help elderly and individuals with disabilities served by that agency. Marie Mills Center is providing 2,400 transportation tokens to CARE so that they can help their constituency in meeting their public transportation needs. Adequate transportation in a rural county like ours is crucial for our most needy citizens. Marie Mills Center travels about 90,000 miles annually in agency vehicles serving those with developmental disabilities. Marie Mills Center thanks the **Oregon Public Transit Division** and **Tillamook County Transportation District** for their commitment and dedication to meeting the transportation needs of those with special needs.



Sarah & Kristine Riding to North County

Changes and Transitions

Much has been happening at Marie Mills Center in the past number of months. After almost 24 years of service to individuals in our residential programs, **Carol Pippenger will be retiring** as of October 1st. At one time or another, Carol has held virtually every residential



Carol Pippenger

she has spent the last 23 ½ years positively impacting the lives of so many people. We greatly appreciate her dedicated service and she will be missed.

Barb McDonald will fill the void left by Carol and become the Nestucca House Manager.

position at Marie Mills Center. She has been a direct care staff, grocery shopper, medical support staff, semi-independent living coordinator, and house manager for both our Madrona and Nestucca House group homes. Still serving as the house manager for our Nestucca House group home,



Barb McDonald

Barb was our initial house manager of Nestucca House. Barb has been our Supported Living Program Coordinator for a number of years. Like Carol, **Barb has extensive experience with nearly 28 years with Marie Mills Center.**

Other recent happenings include **Jimmy Snyder** recently celebrating his 80th birthday at his favorite location, the **Blue Moon Café**, with his many friends joining him there. **Happy birthday Jimmy!** Also, Marie Mills

Center recently hired a new Transportation Coordinator, **Mike Early**. Mike has been a long time resident of Tillamook County residing in Pacific City. And finally, Marie Mills Center welcomes **Jon Carnahan** onto its Board of Directors.



Jimmy Snyder's 80th Birthday Party at Blue Moon Cafe

October Promises to be Very Busy

Much will be happening in October with the Marie Mills Foundation sending out its **Annual Appeal**. Your support of the Annual Appeal is always greatly appreciated. On October 28th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Marie Mills Center will hold its **Annual Open House**. As in the past, this year's event will be in combination with the **Tillamook Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours**. Please join us! On October 29th, Marie Mills will hold its **25th Annual Community Halloween Party**. This year's event will be held at the Swiss Hall. Come prepared with a good costume, for good food, for good music, and for a good time by all. Cost of admission is two cans of food, which Marie Mills Center donates to the **Tillamook Food Bank**. And finally, October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**. Tillamook County Commissioners show their support for the disabled

and programs serving them by proclaiming **October is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, and the date of the Marie Mills Center Open House, **October 28th as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day**.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS



PROFIT

BY INVESTING IN
WORKERS WITH
DISABILITIES

Return on investment means hiring the right talent.

www.dol.gov/odep

Employees of the Month



April 2011
Kelsey Croston



May 2011
Linda Murray



June 2011
Gary Mah



July 2011
Barry Moffett



August 2011
Deanna Walker

Tillamook County United Way

**Marie Mills Center encourages support of the Annual
Tillamook County United Way Drive in October.**

The Tillamook County United Way's Vision for a Better Community includes:

- Caring for Kids
- Strengthening Families
- Assisting People in Crisis
- Promoting Self-Sufficiency
- Promoting Health and Wellness

On average, **the United Way touches 16,000 lives in Tillamook County.** Giving through the United Way allows your donation to become a helping hand to someone right here in our community!

Visit the Tillamook County United Way at www.tillamookcountyunitedway.org

Softball & Bocce Tournaments



Pictured above is the **Tillamook Special Olympics Softball Team**. Pictured to the right are various pictures from the **Bocce Ball Teams**. These teams participated in two tournaments this summer. The softball team won silver medals at Regionals and bronze at the State Games. The various Bocce Ball teams took many medals from these games with Kristyn and Robin taking gold at the State Games! Good Job Everyone!



Up Coming Events

MMCI & MMF
Annual Open House
1800 Front Street
October 28th, 2011 5-7 pm

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Marie Mills Center, Inc.  
25th Annual Halloween  
Party & Dance  
October 29th, 2011 6-9 pm

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Visit Marie Mills Center

We invite you to tour Marie Mills Center. You will observe individuals at work and see our programs in action.

Call Ron Rush at (503)842-2539 ext. 12 or visit us on the web at www.mariemillscenter.com

Executive Director
Ron Rush

Residential Director
Bob Ouzounian

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